# COUNCIL ON ALBERTA TEACHING STANDARDS

# COATS ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY
September, 1986

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YEAR END REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards held its inaugural meeting on August 19, 1985. Mr. David King, Minister of Education addressed the Council before it commenced its meeting and indicated that he hoped the Council would exercise its mandate with enthusiasm, vigor, imagination and discipline.

The Council began by establishing a set of rules of order and procedures for the conduct of its meetings which were to be relatively simple and reasonable so that the work of the Council could proceed expeditiously.

An additional preliminary activity was a review of the mandate as contained in the Ministerial.order and the priorization of its tasks

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Priority was given to making recommendations to the Minister in the area of a regulation with respect to the conduct of practice reviews, including the development of policy and procedures. Priority was also given to preparing recommendations to the Minister with respect to regulations governing certification and decertification of teachers. In addition, the Council began to examine programs to recognize teacher excellence.

## PRACTICE REVIEW

Over the course of the twelve month period beginning August 19, 1985 the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards met monthly, generally for

Two days each time. A considerable portion-of that time was spent drafting policy, regulation and procedures for the conduct of practice review. Background information was prepared by Alberta Education staff to assist in defining specific areas. Research, for example, was conducted into the regulations and acts governing the conduct of practice review panels or committees of other professional associations in order to draw parallels or to determine how specific aspects of a review process are conducted by other professionals. Feedback was requested and received in a number of areas related to practice review from the Alberta Teachers' Association,' the Alberta School Trustees' Association, Conference of Alberta School Superintendents and other groups. As a result, the proposed Regulation would describe skilled teaching practice and procedures for conducting investigations, panel hearings and appeals when teaching practice was called into question. In addition, numerous background documents were prepared and referenced in the course of drafting the regulation and procedures for practice review. Subsequently, a fourth draft of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation was circulated by the Minister to the major stakeholders for comment. Comments were received from the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta School Trustees' Association, the Conference of Alberta School Superintendents, the Federation of Home and School Associations, numerous sources within the department of

Education and from Dr. Ernst Hodgson, a person knowledgeable in the field. (The Universities Co-ordinating Council did not make a submission, nor did the Deans of the Faculties of Education of Alberta's universities.) At the same time, work proceeded on the final draft of the practice review procedures to accompany the proposed Regulation. The Council proceeded with great care in preparing both the regulation and procedures for the conduct of a practice review and The final recommendations were forwarded to the Minister early in the Fall. It is hoped that these recommendations will be viewed favorably and result in the implementation of a practice review process shortly thereafter.

## CERTIFICATION/DECERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards began to study issues related to certification and de-certification of teachers. Firstly, the Council identified a set of principles for certification on which it could base recommendations to the Minister in specific areas.

Secondly, the Council developed an action plan with respect to its principles for certification. Aspects of the Action Plan have already been implemented while others are to be implemented over the next few months. Included in the Action Plan was the formation of a subcommittee to review specific certification issues and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Council as a whole.

Thirdly, the Council has and will continue to make recommendations to the Minister regarding certification. Thus far, recommendations to the Minister regarding certification include:

1. Provisional Certificates

    a) Regulation 4(1) of the Certification of Teachers Regulations be amended to change the date for issuing Provisional Certificates from September 30, 1986 to September 30, 1988 and that the necessary regulatory changes be enacted by Alberta Education to effect this change.
    b) Alberta Education undertake a study of the implications of staffing vocational education programs in high schools prior to any further extensions to the Provisional Certification Program for training vocational education teachers.

2. Extensions to interim Professional Certificates

    a) To allow the Registrar to extend an interim Professional Certificate for a one-year period up to a maximum of 2 extensions upon request of a teacher who is actively seeking employment.
    b) To allow the Registrar to extend automatically, for one-year, the Interim Professional Certificate of all teachers who participated in the Initiation to Teaching Project.

3. E.C.S. Permits/Diploma

    The Council requested that the Minister re-examine the current need for continuance of the E.C.S. Permit.

4. Withdrawal from Portability, Bilateral Agreements

That the Minister withdraw from the inter-Provincial Portability of Teaching Certification Agreement adopted by the Council of Ministers of Education in 1982, but at the same time, enter into bilateral agreements on teacher certification with each province.

As a result of these recommendations, the Minister granted authority to the Registrar to extend Interim Professional certificates as requested. Approval was also given to extend the issuance of Provisional Certificates to September 30, 1988. In addition, a study of the implications of staffing vocational education programs in high schools prior to any further extension to the Provisional Certification Program will be undertaken by the Council. Finally, the Minister has requested a study of the future need for the E.C.S. Diploma.

## RECOGNITION OF TEACHER EXCELLENCE

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards undertook a number of initiatives in the area of programs to recognize teacher excellence. For example, the Council researched the concept of excellence as it applied to corporate structures in order to initially have a broader perspective of this concept.

Secondly, the Council reviewed programs that recognize individual excellence which currently are initiatives of Alberta Culture and the Alberta School Trustees' Association. The Council then determined that it was interested in knowing what programs to recognize teacher excellence exist in the Province, what criteria and procedures are used in the selection process for these programs and what is the nature of the awards recipients receive.

As a consequence, the Council undertook a survey of all Local School Jurisdictions, Category I and 2 Private Schools, the Alberta School Trustees' Association, the School for the Deaf and the university Faculties of Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association (Barnett House), all Alberta Teachers' Association locals and all Alberta Teachers' Association Specialist Councils. The survey results will help to determine the nature of the recommendation made to the Minister with respect to programs to recognize teacher excellence. This recommendation from the Council to the Minister should be forthcoming in January, 1987.

## ANTICIPATED COUNCIL ACTIVITIES 1986 – 1987

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards anticipates a busy schedule of activities beginning in the fall of 1986 and extending through the early summer of 1987.

Firstly, the Council anticipates that the implementation of the Practice Review Regulation and Procedures will precipitate complaints of alleged unskilled or incompetent- practice to be investigated and may result in competency review panel hearings and subsequent appeals that will require considerable administration.

Secondly, the Council anticipates further careful study of issues related to certification of teachers. Issues such as term certification, what might constitute an approved academic and professional program for teacher preparation in the future, internship, the possible extension of the Interim Professional Certificate and certification by specialization are all topics which the Council will likely investigate. In addition, the Council will continue to make recommendations to the Minister regarding changes to the current Certification of Teachers Regulations as requested from time to time.

Thirdly, the Council anticipates conducting research in the area of professional development activities of teachers which may result in a recommendation to the Minister. The Council also anticipates a review of policy, practice and outcomes in the area of teacher evaluation again with a view to making recommendations to the minister.

Lastly, the Council is prepared to respond to requests by the Minister for comments or recommended policies on any topic of importance or interest at the time. The goal of the Council will continue to be to respond to requests for comments and recommendations after thorough consideration of the issue.